

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)	Smith et al.	Examiner:	Bachman, Lindsey M.
Serial No.:	10/643,527	Group Art Unit:	3734
Filed:	August 19, 2003	Docket:	760-7 CPA/RCE 2/DIV/RCE
Confirmation No.:	4474		
For:	COMPOSITE VASCULAR GRAFT	Dated:	September 8, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the Interview Summary mailed on August 21, 2008, please consider the following statement regarding the substance of the interview.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS

A telephonic interview was conducted with Examiner Bachman on August 14, 2008. Subsequent to that telephonic interview, an RCE application along with a Preliminary Amendment was filed on August 22, 2008. In the Preliminary Amendment, Applicant noted the telephone interview conducted with Examiner Bachman. However, for completeness, this statement is also being filed.

At the telephonic interview conducted on August 14, 2008, undersigned counsel discussed claim 15 with Examiner Bachman. Also discussed was the prior art reference to Banas (U.S. Patent No. 6,264,684). The Examiner correctly noted in the Interview Summary that discussions took place regarding the meeting of "contact". Moreover, the Examiner agreed that amending the claims to state "direct contact" would overcome the Banas reference.

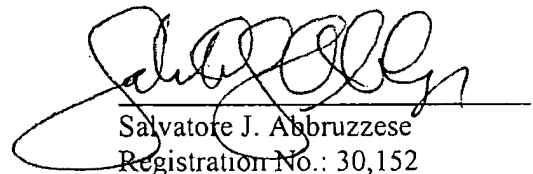
Entry of this statement is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including additional claim fees, associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Salvatore J. Abbruzzese', is written over a horizontal line.

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